

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please examine claims 1-11 found on the translation of the pages attached to the IPER, and labeled "AMENDED PAGE."

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) Spinal column support system comprising a bone screw (16), a plate or rod arrangement having at least one opening (4) in which the bone screw (16) is displaceable, an upper and a lower rotatable fixing element that can be positioned at a spaced distance one above the other with respect to the plate (2) or rod and that each comprise an eccentrically disposed hole (10, 12), through which the bone screw (16) passes, characterized in that the bone screw (16) is formed so as to be able to move axially above the bone screw shaft and an upper and a lower disk (6, 8) are each provided as the fixing elements, which disks are accommodated in the plate (2) or rod in a displaceable manner and each comprise an eccentrically disposed hole (10, 12).

2. (original) Spinal column support system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the plate or rod is provided with a support ring in the inner wall of the opening, which support ring accommodates the upper and the lower disks.

3. (currently amended) Spinal column support system according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the upper and the lower disks (6, 8) are circular.

4. (currently amended) Spinal column support system according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 3~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the lower disk (8) is thicker than the upper disk (6).

5. (currently amended) Spinal column support system according to one of Claims 1 through 4, characterized in that the hole (12) of the lower disk (8) is conical.

6. (currently amended) Spinal column support system according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 5~~ Claim 1, characterized

in that the bone screw (16) consists of an upper part (18) that is provided for screwing in the plate (2) or rod and comprises a spherical receptacle on the lower end, and of a lower bone screw shaft part (20) that comprises, on the upper end, a spherical head (22) that is accommodated in the spherical receptacle in a rotationally moveable manner.

7. (original) Spinal column support system according to Claim 6, characterized in that the bone screw shaft part (20) is provided with a holding element (26) on the upper end, which holding element comprises, on the upper end, the spherical head (22) accommodated in the upper bone screw part in a rotationally moveable manner and also comprises a calotte bearing (30) beneath the spherical head for receiving the upper end (20a) of the bone screw shaft part (20), in such a manner that the bone screw shaft part is freely movable in the calotte bearing in a conical or pyramid-like manner.

8. (original) Spinal column support system according to Claim 7, characterized in that a stepped torsion protector (32) is provided in the calotte bearing (30).

9. (currently amended) Spinal column support system according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 8~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the upper part of the bone screw is an adjusting screw (18) that is provided with a thread on its end opposite the bone screw shaft (20) and can be attached by means of a nut (24).

10. (currently amended) Spinal column support system according to ~~one of Claims 1 through 9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that one or several units are provided as an extension for supporting one or several vertebrae.

11. (original) Spinal column support system according to Claim 10, characterized in that a bending zone (14) is provided between adjacent units.